

The illustration depicts a historical scene of the Boston Tea Party. In the foreground, a man in a red coat and a purple tricorn hat points towards a large ship. The ship's deck is crowded with people dressed in 18th-century attire, some wearing Native American headdresses, as they throw crates of tea overboard. The water is filled with floating crates, and a city with a church steeple is visible in the background under a hazy sky.

I Saw the **BOSTON TEA PARTY**

by Sarah Craig

illustrated by
Anthony Lewis

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

BOSTON

It was the evening of December 16, 1773. Father was acting strange. I shouldn't have spied, but I did.

“English ships are in the harbor,” Father muttered. “King George has ordered us to pay a tax on their tea. This colony will not do it!”





Father put on a blanket. He stuck feathers in his hair. He said to himself, "I look just like a Mohawk Indian."

But he didn't really look like a Mohawk at all.

Father went outside. I followed. Other men dressed just like Father joined him.

“We never voted for the tea tax, and we will not pay it,” one man said. “We wanted to make a fast agreement. The governor did not pay attention to us!”





“The Sons of Liberty must stop this injustice!” another man cried.

“But remember,” Father said, “we’ll just dump out the tea. We won’t harm anyone. We won’t damage the ships.”

“I agree,” said the first man. “We will do as our leader Samuel Adams says.”

A crowd was gathered at Griffin's wharf. "How did they know?" I thought to myself. Then the men dressed as Mohawks boarded the ships. They chopped up crates. They threw the tea in the water. It took a few hours. Then they rowed back to shore.





When I saw Father coming, I thought, "I'm in trouble." I knew I'd be punished for being out after dark.

But Father just smiled. He said, "Never forget this night. Tonight you saw history being made."

Father was right. The Boston Tea Party encouraged the colonies to fight for their freedom, or independence. Without it, the United States might not exist.



Responding

Think About What You Have Read

- 1** When was the Boston Tea Party?
- 2** Why did the colonists throw out the tea?
- 3** Why was the Boston Tea Party important?

Activity With a group of classmates, write a play about the Boston Tea Party. Act it out for another class.

America's Past



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